

THEBAIN.—J. Ott (*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, April 8) offers the following summary of the results of his investigations on the physiological action of thebain:

1. Thebain is a tetanoid agent, and pigeons have no special immunity against it.
2. The tetanus is not cerebral, but spinal in origin.
3. The motor and sensory nerves, and the striated muscles are not affected by it.
4. It increases the pulse and blood-pressure, by an action on the vaso-motor centre and the heart itself.
5. The reflex action of the depressor nerve is in no way interfered with.

ELECTRICITY IN HEMICRANIA.—Domenico Severi.—The author, in the month of September, 1874, inserted in the journal *Galvani*, a note in which he considered hemicrania as a temporary paralysis of the cervical sympathetic. He admitted, however, that hemicranias of a different nature existed. We have now another observation by the same author. A man of forty years was subject to frequent attacks of hemicrania on the left side. It was preceded by heat and swelling of the veins of the side; recurred every month or oftener, when it was induced by any intellectual labor.

Severi proposed the application of electricity to the cervical sympathetic, and applied the induction machine of Pizzorno, taking care to apply one electrode along the whole course of the sympathetic in the neck. The application was kept up ten minutes. All the existing symptoms, heat, venous turgescence, etc., disappeared.

At the end of the month a new attack came on. Electricity was not applied, but it was observed that the intensity and duration of the seizure was less than before. When it again appeared, electrization was again resorted to, with success in averting the attack. The author hence concludes that electricity is always indicated in hemicrania, and that it is frequently a good palliative and curative agent.

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD IN INSANITY.—We copy the following abstract by Leidesdorff, of four articles on this subject which appeared in the *Archivio Italiano*, January and March, 1875, from the *Psych. Centralbl.*, No. 3, of the present year:

The four simultaneously appearing articles in the *Italian Archiv for Nervous and Mental Disease*, show sufficiently to what an extent the Italian physicians have taken up the subject of transfusion.

Michetti gives a series of comparative experiments performed by him, on transfusion of human and animal blood. They consist of six operations, in three of which, arterial lamb's blood, and in the three others, defibrinated human blood was employed. From 20–25 grammes (= from about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) were injected. The special form of the disease was melancholia of a severe type. Two ended fatally in about three days; one from profound inanition and exhaustion, and the other from exhaustion and diarrhoea. In the other four cases, a more or less enduring improvement followed the operation.

both cases, and the operation was repeated in the first, five, and again in fourteen days afterwards, and in the second, twenty-four days after the first operation; in both there was an apparent immediate improvement, but no cure. (This was also the case in a similar treatment of a case of stupid melancholia by Leidesdorff, where the patient, immediately after the operation, broke his silence of a week's duration, and otherwise changed from his former condition). In no case have uncomfortable symptoms been the result of transfusion.

MONOBROMIDE OF CAMPHOR.—At the *seance* of the Soc. de Therap., Jan. 27 (reported in *Bull. Gen. de Therap.*), M. Trasbot, Professor at Alfort, reported that he had experimented with the bromide of camphor on animals, and obtained results disagreeing with those reported by M. Bourneville.

He first administered bromide of camphor in dogs suffering from epilepsy and chorea, and obtained no relief in the nervous symptoms; the dose at first ten centigrammes (= 1.5 grains) was raised to fifty centigrammes, and even to one gramme (= 15 grains) in the dog. In another series of experiments instituted to study the action of the drug, he never observed the least somnolence or the slightest lowering of the pulse or temperature. This medicine always produced, on the other hand, in doses of fifty centigrammes to one gramme, well marked symptoms of excitement, and true convulsive attacks, altogether comparable to those produced by strychnia, so that, from his experiments, bromide of camphor should be considered as a tetanizing poison.

M. Dujardin-Beaumetz reported that he had given the drug many times, but his testimony was not strongly in favor of its value. In hysteria, the results were uncertain; in epilepsy they were completely *nul*. In affections of the genito-urinary organs, spermatorrhœa, for example, it acted more as a camphorated preparation than as a bromide.

CROTON CHLORAL.—The following are some of the conclusions of a paper by Dr. Weill (*Thèse de Paris*, abstracted in *Bull. Gen. de Thérap.*) on this agent:

1. Its physiological action is different from that of chloral.
2. It is hypnotic in the same way, and generally in smaller quantity than the other drug.
3. It exercises a special action on the sensory cranial nerves.
4. In moderate doses, it has no effect on the pulsations of the heart, and on the muscular tonicity, and it does not slow the respiration and lower the temperature as much as chloral.
5. In extreme doses, it destroys life by arresting the respiration.
6. The lesions found at the autopsy of animals killed by it, consist in an intense hyperæmia of the meninges, especially those of the encephalon.
7. Its therapeutical employment is indicated:
 - a. In neuralgias of the trigeminus;
 - b. In other neuralgias, and to relieve pain in general;
 - c. In spasmodic affections of the nervous system;